

May 2010

My Favorite Tree
By Hannah Feller

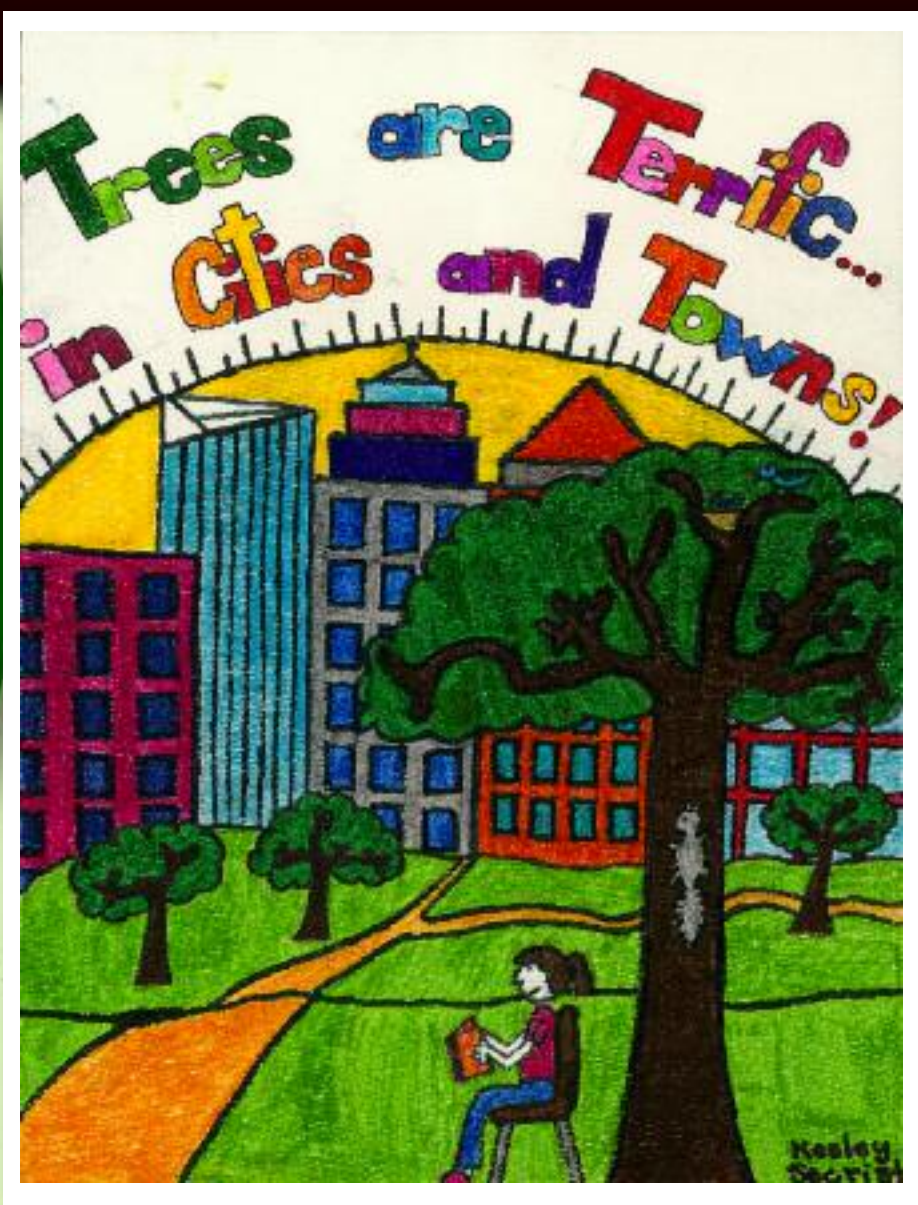
My favorite tree is such a sight,
it's shimmery color glints in the sunlight.
It's blackish "eyes" shaped like lightning bolts
are scattered all over it's bark.
Those "eyes," we say, are very, very special marks.

The bark peels off in clean white strips
and was perfect for helping Indians take trips.
Across the water they would soar,
inside the bark covered canoes, there they sat with all their things,
like food, bedding, and much, much more.

So as you can see, this special tree has many different uses.
But did I mention the suspension of a quiet afternoon,
sitting there with a good book or some soft and gentle music,
under the shade of my favorite tree?

Now, you see that my favorite tree just happens to be the...
Paper Birch!

South Elementary School, Reedsburg
Second Place
Teacher: Dana Westedt



Calendar Art by Kesley Secrist • School: Alma Area School, Alma • Second Place
Teacher: Sherry Brevick

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
APRIL 10		JUNE 10									
		1 2 3		1 2 3 4 5							
4 5 6 7 8 9 10		6 7 8 9 10 11 12									
11 12 13 14 15 16 17		13 14 15 16 17 18 19									
18 19 20 21 22 23 24		20 21 22 23 24 25 26									
25 26 27 28 29 30		27 28 29 30									
2		3	A male turkey is called a <i>tom</i> . Listen for them as they start gobbling.	4	National Teacher's Day	5	Cinco de Mayo	6		7	
9	Mother's Day First newspaper cartoon printed in the USA (1754)	10	Peace Day	11		12	Lilacs, columbine, shooting star and Jack-in-the-pulpit blooming.	13	What makes a good tree from a woodpecker's point of view?	14	
16	Look for morel mushrooms. They are highly coveted for their great taste.	17	It's true! A bullfrog can jump as far as five feet.	18		19		20	Fun Forestry Fact: Leaves are food making machines! Through <i>photosynthesis</i> they turn water, carbon dioxide and sunlight into sugar for the tree to use.	21	Discover the outdoors! Learn to fish.
23		24	Monarch butterflies arriving. The monarch is the only northern butterfly that migrates north and south each year.	25		26		27	Full (Flower) Moon Rachel Carson born (1907) – Her writings launched the contemporary environmental movement.	28	Green frogs and Blanchard's cricket frogs calling.
30		31	Memorial Day			Fruit The fruit of a White birch is a <i>catkin</i> , about 1 inch long, containing many tiny seeds about 1/6 inch in length. The seeds mature in August and September, and disseminate throughout the fall and into winter.					

White (Paper) Birch
(*Betula papyrifera*)

Form
White birch grows to a height of 65 to 70 feet, and has a rounded to pyramid-shaped crown.

Leaf
White birch leaves are 2 to 3 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide. They are often oval or heart-shaped, pointed at the tip, rounded at the base and irregularly toothed. The leaves are thick and leathery in texture, and tend to be dark green on the upper side and yellowish-green on the lower side.

Wood
The wood of White birch is hard, strong, light in weight and tough. It is brown tinged with red heartwood and nearly white sapwood. It is often used to make spools, toothpicks, ice cream sticks, snow-shoe frames, paper pulp, flooring, firewood and interior finish. Birch bark was also used by Native Americans for canoes, wigwams, baskets, cups and bags.



Grow a green school: www.dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools